

i) the binding of said substance to the ROR  $\alpha$  receptor or the binding of the complex formed by said substance and the ROR  $\alpha$  receptor to its response element or to a nuclear factor which couples ROR  $\alpha$  to a RNA polymerase complex;

or

ii) the modulation of the transcriptional activity of a gene placed under the control of a promoter comprising said response element.

4. (Twice Amended) The method of screening according to claim 3, comprising:

- a) transfecting a cellular host with a DNA fragment encoding an ROR  $\alpha$  receptor;
- b) cotransfecting the host in a) with a construct comprising a response element of said ROR  $\alpha$  receptor and at least one reporter gene; and
- c) measuring the expression of the reporter gene in the presence of the test substance.

5. (Twice Amended) The method of screening according to claim 3, comprising:

- a) creating a plasmid which comprises several copies of a response element recognized by ROR  $\alpha$  cloned upstream of a strong heterologous promoter which control the expression of a reporter gene;
- b) transfecting the construct of a) into host cells which express ROR  $\alpha$  naturally or artificially;
- c) incubating the host cells of b) in the presence of the test substance; and
- d) measuring the activity of the reporter gene.

6. (Twice Amended) The method of screening according to claim 3, comprising:

- a) creating a plasmid which comprises several copies of a response element recognized by ROR  $\alpha$  cloned upstream of a promoter which controls

the expression of a selectable gene;

- b) transfecting the construct of a) into a cellular host;
- c) cotransfecting the host of b) with the aid of a vector expressing ROR  $\alpha$ ;
- d) incubating the host of c) in the presence of the test substance; and
- e) measuring the cellular survival of said cellular host in the presence of a toxic prodrug.

7. (Twice Amended) The method of screening according to claim 3, comprising:

- a) creating a plasmid which comprises several copies of a response element recognized by a yeast nuclear factor Gal4 cloned upstream of a strong promoter which controls the activity of a reporter gene;
- b) creating a plasmid from a chimera which comprises a DNA binding domain of Gal4 and a DEF domain of ROR  $\alpha$  which are the ROR  $\alpha$  domains to which the ligands bind;
- c) cotransfecting the plasmids in a) or b) into a cellular host;
- d) incubating the host of c) in the presence of a test substance; and
- e) measuring the activity of said reporter gene.

8. (Twice Amended) The method of screening according to claim 3, comprising:

- a) transforming the cellular host with a construct carrying a gene encoding a ROR  $\alpha$  receptor or a response element of a ROR  $\alpha$  receptor, and;
- b) assaying said cellular host or an extract thereof for the competitive displacement in the binding of labeled and unlabeled ligand to said ROR  $\alpha$  receptor.

9. (Twice Amended) The method of screening according to claim 4, wherein the construct carrying the gene encoding a ROR  $\alpha$  receptor or a response element of the ROR  $\alpha$  receptor also comprises a reporter gene.

16. (Twice Amended) A method for treating or preventing atherosclerosis in humans or animals comprising administering a medicament or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a substance which binds to a ROR  $\alpha$  receptor, or its response element involved in the regulation of the apo C-III gene.

22. (Amended) A method of measuring the expression of the apo C-III gene, comprising contacting a substance with a ROR  $\alpha$  receptor or a response element of the ROR  $\alpha$  receptor involved in the regulation of the expression of the apo C-III gene or a response element of the ROR  $\alpha$  receptor or a nuclear factor which couples ROR  $\alpha$  to a RNA polymerase complex, and then measuring:

i) the binding of said substance to the ROR  $\alpha$  receptor or the binding of the complex formed by the said substance and the ROR  $\alpha$  receptor to its response element or to a nuclear factor which couples ROR  $\alpha$  to a RNA polymerase complex;

or

ii) the modulation of the transcriptional activity of a gene placed under the control of a promoter comprising said response element.